THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRITASLIMUDDIN): (a) No specific request for setting up of a funding agency has been received. However, some requests have been received for assistance for purchase of fishing vessels.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the fund requirements/finance to the fishing industry.

(c) and (d) The Government is allowing deferred payment fpr acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels. Further under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, subsidy is provided upto Rs. 4.00 lakh for acquisition of intermediate craft of less than 20m length. Subsidy is also provided for conversions of trawlers of tuna long liners. Request for acquisition of vessels under deferred payment is processed by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries under Ministry of Agriculture and the proposals for acquisition of intermediate craft is processed by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and for conversion from trawlers of tuna long liners is processed by Fishery Survey of India.

Doubling foodgrain production

1207. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PM had said that it was possible to double food production by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan with available technologies;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out for this purpose; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Increasing agricultural productivity and doubling food production by 2010 has been identified as one of thrust areas. Further, with objective of increasing overall productivity of cereals under specific crop based systems, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Rice) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals based Cropping Systems a'reas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) are under implementation in the country as Centrally sponsored scheme. The

Government of India is also implementing a Centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) in the country from 1 st April, 2004 to increase production and productivity of these crops.

Benefit of agriculture to American companies

†1208. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the benefit of agriculture to American companies following an agreement between India and America; and

(b) the details of loss likely to be incurred on Indian farmers due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) In Indo-US knowledge Initiative on Agriculture/which is under active consideration, there is no proposal to extend benefit of agriculture to American Companies.

(b) Does not arise.

Private sector participation in Indo-US knowledge initiative

1209. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many private sector representatives in the Board of Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Research and Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the members of the board, as on today;

(c) the purpose of above board and the details of initiatives made in the first meeting of the above board;

(d) whether the initial initiative is mainly funded for research in transgenic and bio-technology; and

(e) if so, the details of funding to the board including the sourco of fund?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.